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## Press Release

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TO: JoAnn Chartier, KNCO  
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FROM: Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposition 51

DATE: October 24, 2002

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Nevada County Transportation Commission opposes Proposition 51.

Although its title portends money for transportation projects, the Nevada County Transportation Commission is opposed to Proposition 51. The initiative, sponsored by the Planning and Conservation League, directs 30 percent of the state sales tax received on motor vehicle sales and leases to a Traffic Congestion Relief and Safe School Bus Trust Fund, to be used for transportation and environmental programs.

The measure specifies 16 funding programs that will receive funds from the Trust Fund and the percentage of the total funding that will go to each. These include programs for mass transit and highway improvements, local street and road repairs, replacement of certain school buses, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and environmental enhancement/mitigation programs. Within those programs, funding for 45 specific projects is earmarked totaling \$210 million in 2003-2004 and decreasing over time.

The Legislative Analyst Office estimates that \$420 million will be removed from the General Fund and allocated to the transportation Trust Fund in 2002-2003. The amount will increase to \$910 million in 2003-2004, with subsequent annual increases depending on the increase in taxes raised on the sale and lease of motor vehicles. Executive Director of the Nevada County Transportation Commission, Daniel Landon, noted that the impact that diverting these funds will have on rural counties is not clear, but with a \$23 billion deficit already identified in the state budget, further diversions will not improve the overall budget picture.

After receiving a staff report which pointed out that the selection process for the projects in Proposition 51 circumvents the existing statewide transportation planning process and that most of the funding will go to just three southern California counties, the Nevada County Transportation Commission joined with the California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities, the California Association of Councils of Governments, and more than twenty regional governmental agencies in opposing Proposition 51. The regional agencies opposing Proposition 51 include Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and San Bernardino Associated Governments.